

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST 2013 PASTOR'S CONFERENCE

*\*approved & unashamed*

2 Timothy 2:15

OCTOBER 28 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON

**AFTERNOON SESSION**  
1:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

### SPEAKERS

**Russell Moore, president**  
*Ethics and Religious  
Liberty Commission of the  
Southern Baptist Convention  
Nashville, Tn.*

**George Ross,**  
*North American Mission Board  
New Orleans SEND  
City Missionary*

**Eric Hankins, pastor**  
*First Church, Oxford*

**EVENING SESSION**  
6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

### SPEAKERS

**Greg Belser, pastor**  
*Morrison Heights Church, Clinton*

**Paige Patterson, president**  
*Southwestern Seminary  
Ft. Worth, Texas*

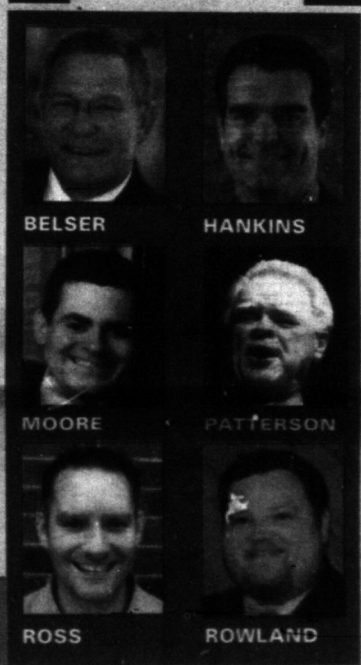
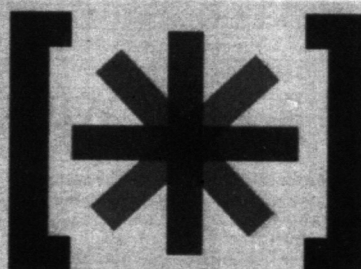
**MUSIC**  
**Jerry Stuart, minister of music**  
*Bovina Church, Vicksburg*

**Tim Goodson, minister of music**  
*Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg*

**Bovina Church worship team**

**President**  
**Chas Rowland, pastor**  
*Bovina Church, Vicksburg*

**Vice-President**  
**Kenneth Armstrong, pastor**  
*North Winona Church, Winona*



## Miss. CWJC site awarded WMU grant

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)** — Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) of the Golden Triangle in Starkville is one of three CWJC sites in three Southern states to be awarded a \$1,200 grants this year from the national Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and its foundation.

Founded in 2009, CWJC of the Golden Triangle serves women in Clay, Lowndes, and Oktibbeha counties.

"CWJC is not about 'fixing' what is wrong with our participants," said Amanda Thornton, site coordinator. "This ministry is about change, and our volunteers work to empower women to make the changes necessary to reach their goals."

"We believe that each woman has the capacity for change and growth by the way of the Holy Spirit which requires us to focus on their strengths, talents, goals and experiences."

The Mississippi center will use the grant to provide financial assistance to 20 participants to supplement gasoline and childcare costs.

"It is our goal to retain more participants in the CWJC ministry by eliminating the potential costs of gas and childcare that typically hinder their

see CWJC on p. 5

## LifeWay expanding in Midwest, West with acquisition

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — LifeWay Christian Stores will soon be opening 17 new locations in seven states, the result of acquiring Berean Christian Stores with locations primarily in California, Arizona, and the Midwest.

Thom S. Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, the parent company of LifeWay Christian Stores, said the acquisition is a tremendous opportunity to serve more customers in new communities.

"Berean, like LifeWay, has been known for their commitment to serving church customers. This acquisition significantly increases LifeWay's opportunities for service and ministry across the country," Rainer said.

By the end of October, LifeWay will operate 186 stores in 28 states.



Tim Vineyard, vice president of LifeWay's retail division, said his staffers are opening the stores as quickly as possible but first must conduct comprehensive inventories, convert the stores to LifeWay's systems and products, and train employees.

"It's a herculean effort by our staff — both in the stores and at our Nashville headquarters," Vineyard said, "but we

are committed to opening as quickly as possible in order to serve our customers with LifeWay Bible studies, music, VBS materials, B&H Publishing Bibles, books, church supplies, and a variety of inspirational gifts and home décor."

Three former Berean stores in Ohio and Pennsylvania and one each in Georgia and Montana already have opened as LifeWay

Stores, while seven stores in California and two in Arizona will open the first week of October.

Berean Christian Stores was started in 1934 and purchased by Joseph and Deanna Gimelli in 2009. The Gimellis said they are pleased to transition their stores to LifeWay stores.

"Frankly, we cannot think of a partner more compatible and more fully committed to meeting the needs of believers and their churches," Joseph Gimelli said. "This opportunity is truly a blessing for our customers and our employees."

While technology systems at the new stores are being converted immediately to LifeWay's systems, Vineyard said transition of employee uniforms, internal and external signage, and merchandising plans will take a few weeks.

### Inside this issue

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How to Be

a Christian

Revivals &

Homecoming

Just for the

Classifieds

Directions  
3-DIGIT 372  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
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SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOC  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620  
OCT 16 2013  
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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Skirmish in a long war

**W**e all know the homosexual political movement has for years been waging war on traditional American society on many fronts, and there's a minor skirmish presently underway that has almost altogether slipped past us. It's the battle over banning so-called "gay conversion therapy."

Also known as reparative therapy, gay conversion therapy is the idea that practicing homosexuals can, with appropriate therapy, convert their lifestyles to heterosexuality if they so desire. We've been told for decades that homosexuality is hardwired in the brain and as natural and unalterable as skin color and dimples. A person has no choice other than to accept his/her homosexuality, the argument goes, nor do his friends and family. A homosexual is a homosexual for life.

There are many examples of the unfairness and untruthfulness of that argument. Robert Spitzer, a highly-respected professor of psychiatry now retired after a long academic and research career at Columbia University in New York City, issued a study in 2001 that found 66% of men and 44% of women surveyed who wanted to change had achieved "good heterosexual functioning."

A self-avowed atheist, Spitzer led the charge in 1973 that successfully removed homosexuality from the American Psychological Association's classification of mental disorders. He certainly can't be accused of being a religious nut or a homophobe, yet he has produced solid evidence that gay conversion therapy has merit.

"I'm very pleased that there is a study that shows people like me exist," Tim Wilkins told Baptist Press shortly after the study was released. Wilkins is a former homosexual who was convicted of his sin and turned his life around. He is now married to a woman, is a father, and leads Cross Ministry in Wake Forest, N.C., which seeks to help individuals and churches deal with the struggles of same sex attractions.

None of this should come as a revelation to Christians. We know that Jesus Christ can

deliver us from anything and set our feet on the right path. We know that a person who really wants to change can turn his back on a lifetime of sin when Jesus is involved. We know that a person can quit drinking, lose weight, stop smoking, overcome drug addiction, or cease gambling, when Jesus is involved.

Despite inarguable evidence that gay conversion therapy can be successful in both secular and spiritual contexts, the homosexual political movement is determined to legislate it out of existence.

On August 16, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, a Republican with presidential aspirations, signed into law a bipartisan bill that criminalizes gay conversion therapy for teenagers in that state. The bill's Democrat sponsor in the legislature called gay conversion therapy "an insidious form of child abuse."

On August 29, the Ninth U.S. Circuit of Appeals in San Francisco upheld a similar California law that passed the state legislature with bipartisan support and was signed by Democrat Governor Jerry Brown. On the heels of those successes, Ohio Democrat state Senator Charleta Tavares plans to introduce similar legislation in the near future.

The campaign to discredit and criminalize gay conversion therapy is picking up steam, and no small number of opportunistic politicians on both sides of the political aisle will be more than happy to assist the homosexual political movement with expanding these initial bans. Look for the issue to pop up in the Mississippi Legislature, sooner than later.

Those of us who have asked Jesus Christ to turn our lives around should avail ourselves of the twin opportunities of praying for the lost and personally striving to lead them to faith in our beloved Savior, regardless of their sins. He worked a miracle in each of our lives. He can work a miracle in anyone's life.

May we, the privileged saved, be found faithful in fulfilling the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) and helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

## Women of faith, rise up!

**W**omen have been created in the image of God and can do anything they have been gifted and called to do within the guidelines that God has given.

We serve a loving, creative God who is using women to impact this world for Him in a thousand different ways. Hundreds of women, for example, have passed through the halls of Southwestern Seminary who are now serving to their fullest for Christ and the church.

One of the most frequent questions people ask me about Southwestern's women's programs is, "What do women do with their degrees after they graduate?" The truth is their careers and ministries are as varied as the women themselves.

Here are just a few examples. Ashley leads the women's ministry for a Baptist state convention. Meghan is the director of women's ministry at a large theological seminary. Sarah is the dean of women at a Bible institute in Florida. Vanessa serves as assistant academic dean and director of institutional research at a college in Houston.

Michelle is a pastor's wife who has built a home fitness business that is faith-based on biblical principles. Part of her mission is to teach other women how to do the same so they can stay home with their children. Spring is married to Charles, who is living with muscular dystrophy, and they're serving in a full-time speaking ministry together.

Diane serves as a missionary in Mexico. Laura is using her home in Zambia to reach Zambian women. Amanda is the wife of a college minister and mother of two who also leads Bible studies on biblical womanhood and works with her Baptist association in organizing their associational women's events.

Ashley is a Christian voice in the marketplace who also serves as assistant minister to women at her church. Claire is performing with a major Christian theater group. Alanna serves as a girls' minister.



**Guest opinion**  
with Terri Stovall

Many others are wives and mothers who are ministering to women and sharing their faith through their homes, churches, and everyday lives. Women, both married and single, are serving in churches, para-church organizations, on the mission field, and in the marketplace. Some are pastors' wives, some are women's, girls' or children's ministers, some are serving in music ministry, and some are missionaries, church planters, and educators serving in places near and far.

All of these women, serving as women of influence, have one thing in common. Each and every one is being used by God to make a difference in the lives of others, leading them to Christ and helping them to grow in their faith. They are making a difference, and they are doing it the way God has designed them.

We have a world full of women who need to know the redemptive message of Jesus Christ and how to receive the gift of life. These same women need to know how to grow in their faith and become fully developing followers of Christ. For many, they will never hear unless a woman tells them and teaches them.

There are lives to be changed, women to influence and families to impact. Let's go to work, my strong, saved, gifted, and called sisters in Christ. There is much to be done!

*Stovall is dean of women's programs at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Her commentary appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.*

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# Obama expresses concern for pastor during phone call

**WASHINGTON (BP and local reports)** — A historic phone call between U.S. President Barack Obama and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Sept. 27 capped a significant week in the case of an American pastor imprisoned in Iran.

During the 15-minute call, Obama voiced concern for Saeed Abedini, an Iran-born U.S. citizen who marked a year of incarceration for his Christian faith on Sept. 26. Though U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has called for Abedini's release, this was the President's first known action on the pastor's behalf.

Obama also expressed concern for two other Americans imprisoned or missing in Iran, in addition to dealing with other topics.

Abedini's wife Naghmeh said the presidential call marked "the most en-



**ABEDINI**

couraging news I have heard since Saeed was imprisoned one year ago. I am very grateful to President Obama for standing up for Saeed and for the other Americans who are held captive in Iran. This development is truly an answer to prayer."

The conversation was the first time presidents of the two countries have spoken directly since 1979.

"We're... grateful to President Obama for raising Pastor Saeed's imprisonment and call on President Rouhani to put his promise of being 'moderate' into action by releasing Saeed without further delay."

**Jordan Sekulow**

**executive director of the American Center for Law and Justice**

During a CNN interview on Sept. 25, Rouhani was noncommittal when asked about Abedini, noting that he "cannot interfere in the judicial process," and that America also held Iranians whom he sought to be freed.

Abedini's family is optimistic in the wake of the presidents' phone call, as Iran released 91 prisoners of con-

science in the days leading up to Rouhani's Sept. 24 speech at the United Nations. Two of them were women held since 2009 on charges of "undermining the national security of Iran" after they converted from Islam to Christianity and joined a house church, according to Morning Star News.

Abedini was convicted of similar charges, but it is difficult to draw comparisons or conclusions from the murky Iranian legal and penal systems.

The Abedinis are hopeful that the new Iranian president, elected in June on a platform of reconciliation and engagement with the West, will soon add the pastor to the list of those released.

Obama's move was "a significant step forward in this critical case," said Jordan Sekulow, executive director of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), which represents Naghmeh Abedini. "We're... grateful to President Obama for raising Pastor Saeed's imprisonment and call on President Rouhani to put his promise of being 'moderate' into action by releasing Saeed without further delay."

Earlier in the week, Naghmeh Abedini passed along a letter from her husband to Rouhani when she encountered the Iranian president and his entourage in a New York hotel where she was staying.

As Rouhani approached the hotel elevators on Sept. 23, Naghmeh Abedini gave a letter to one of his delegates, who promised to deliver the letter to the president, ACLJ reported.

In the letter, Saeed Abedini recounted his plight and asked the Iranian president to initiate a review of his case, stating that according to Iran's constitution, "Choosing the religion and participating in religious meetings and activities are totally legitimate in Iran, but staying in prison for me and other people like me is for sure illegal."

On the anniversary of Abedini's imprisonment on Sept. 26, thousands gathered for vigils in more than 70 cities across the United States to pray for the pastor's release.

Abedini, whose wife and two children live in Idaho, has spent the last year in Tehran's harsh Evin Prison, known for housing political dissidents. He was handed an eight-year sentence after being arrested while visiting his parents in Iran and working on building an orphanage.

The 33-year-old pastor had converted from Islam to Christianity in Iran in 2000 and planted house churches until 2005. Although Iran has no law against house churches, the government termed his involvement a threat to "national security," even though he had ceased such work after agreeing in 2009 to limit his ministry to humanitarian work, according to Morning Star News.

Before his trial Abedini was held in solitary confinement, beaten repeatedly, and told he would be killed, according to the ACLJ. He has been denied medical treatment and suffered serious infections and internal bleeding — presumably sustained during interrogation sessions by prison officials.

In January he wrote a letter saying he was told he would "hang for your faith in Jesus," but he has held firm to his faith and refused to renounce Christ when pressured to do so.

IN THE NAME OF JESUS

# RISE UP

ACTS 3:6, 16

SPIRITUALLY • PHYSICALLY • EMOTIONALLY • INTELLECTUALLY



178th

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

October 29-30, 2013 • First Baptist Church, Jackson

Mississippi Baptist Convention

October 29-30, 2013 • First Baptist Church, Jackson

For a schedule of events and other convention information, please visit [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org).

Church cemeteries are valuable pieces of property. They tell the story of individuals, families and congregations. I was at a special day event at a church with a meaningful worship celebration followed by dinner on the ground. While seated at the table with some new found friends, the conversation at some point turned to church cemeteries. The gentleman said, "You know this church has two cemeteries." I said, "No sir, I did not know that." He said, "One is on one side of the road and the other is on the other side." Wondering why that was the case I said, "Well did they run out of room?" He said, "No, it happened years ago." Then he explained to me how many years ago many country cemeteries would have a cleaning day which was usually held in the spring and before a memorial occasion. Everybody was rounded up to come with a hoe and a rake to scrape off all of the grass and rake it up into piles. I let him go ahead and tell me how the old folks used to do it before I explained to him that I had been around long enough not only to observe this event but to have been a part of the Saturday cemetery workforce.

I still did not understand why two cemeteries, and then he explained that some people felt like the grass should be allowed to grow and they could mow the cemetery, while others felt that there was something more significant in honoring their departed loved ones by scraping the land as clean as the pavement. As a result of the difference of opinions there was not a church split, but there was a cemetery split. Some land on the other side of the road was acquired so that the grass growing wing of the congregation could have a plot where they would feel comfortable. I suppose it was well watered and fertilized. I said, "Do they still clean off the cemetery and leave it bare?" He said,



## Church (Cemetery) Split

"No, they are just alike now. I doubt that anybody knows which side was which, and probably the majority of the congregation does not even know that such a thing took place."

Through the years I have known of churches that have had such a disagreement that they split over a multiplicity of issues including everything from the pros and cons to having a kitchen in the church, to the color of brick or carpet or whether or not to buy a church van or bus. But I had never heard of a cemetery split. Regardless of what comes along and divides the people of God, it might be worth stopping long enough to catch your breath and ask a few probing questions.

**Question 1 – Does this difference make any difference?** One church got into a huge controversy over the Lord's Prayer. There were some in the congregation who had learned and always said the Lord's Prayer using the word, "trespasses." A small group in the congregation had learned the Lord's Prayer with the word, "debtors," rather than, "trespasses." Both words have some biblical foundation, but the argument that ensued was a contradiction of

the very thing that Jesus was trying to teach us. It truly was a difference that made no difference except that in their making a difference they denied the spirit of the prayer.

Sometimes when people get all soured up about music I want to ask, "Seriously, does the difference make any difference?" There are young people who may not like traditional songs and older folks who may not like contemporary songs. If the songs are honoring to God and focused on the redemptive work of Jesus, what difference does it make when they were written?

**Question 2 – Is this fuss more valuable to me than a relationship with my friend?** Through the decades I have watched as people have gotten crossed up with each other and disagreed over some issue that made absolutely no difference, but they elevated the issue to something far more important than the right relationship with a family member, friend or a good church brother or sister. They alienated, ostracized, fumed, pouted and cut people out of their lives over something that was of no significance.

Now I am not talking about a dis-

agreement over biblical truth or moral standards. For the most part, I am talking about just simple, personal preferences that they raised to some new standard. At virtually any step or stage of life and almost any way that you want to slice it, people are more important than your preferences.

**Question 3 – If Jesus were a participant in the discussion, would He be pleased with my position and even more important would He be honored by my attitude?** A church was trying to reach out to the neighborhood and had some special activities for children on Wednesday night. As a result, a number of the community children came. Because they were not grownups and they had no church background it was sometimes a challenge getting them to understand how they were to behave. One of the men in the church grew more and more agitated by these children. Finally, he went to the pastor and told him that the activities needed to be stopped and those kids could stay at home. The pastor with a gentle spirit and a good measure of wisdom said, "Could I ask you something?" The man said, "Sure." The pastor said, "Do you think that the Lord is more pleased with these kids being in His house and being taught His Word on Wednesday night or you being here with your bad attitude about them?"

With very few exceptions, I would have to say that for the most part folks who get all involved in controversy, criticism and church fussing and fighting would probably cause the Lord to look at their hearts, see their bad spirits and shake His head. In the case of the cemetery split, I doubt that any of the folks out there resting beneath the ground cared whether it got scraped or mowed.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

## BIBL iO C i P H E R

V IDTQ JVW IDAA UQVZ, VWX IDAA

DWRZQVTQ AQVZWDWP; VWX V JVW

BC SWXQZTEVWXDWP TUVAA VEEVDW

SWEB IDTQ RBSWTQAT.

NZBKQZYT BWQ: CDKQ

Clue: J = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews 2:1

By Charles Marx, 1932–2004. © 2005

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **New Zion Church, Braxton:** Revival, Oct. 13–16; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.–Wed., 7 p.m.; Gerald Simmons, speaker.

► **Immanuel Church, Greenwood:** Annual Day (homecoming), Oct. 13; business meeting, 10:30 a.m., followed by morning service and potluck dinner.

► **McAdams Church, Sallis:** Homecoming, Oct. 13; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Jamie Moore, speaker; James E. Young, pastor.

► **Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg:** Homecoming, Oct. 13; services, 10:30 a.m.; Randall Creel, speaker.

► **Eighth Avenue Church, Meridian:** Homecoming, Oct. 13; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck luncheon.

► **Holly Springs Church, Foxworth:** Homecoming, Oct. 13; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; preaching, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and singing; Jerry Bailey, speaker; Ron Jordon, pastor.

► **Good Hope Church, Winston County:** Revival, Oct. 13–16; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.–Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Rivers, speaker; Reggie Lovorn, music.

► **First Church, Ripley:** 175th anniversary, Oct. 13; services, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; Jim Futral, speaker.

► **New Ireland Church, Union:** Revival, Oct. 13–16; Sun., 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Mon.–Wed., 7 p.m.; Bobby Bowles, speaker; Thomas Fortenberry, pastor.

► **North Calvary Church, Philadelphia:** Homecoming, Oct. 13; services, 11 a.m., followed by potluck meal; Michael Wells, speaker; Terry Nowell, music.

► **Clear Branch Church, Florence:** 116th homecoming, Oct. 13; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:45, followed by lunch; Robbie Britt, speaker; Jonathon Sherwin, pastor.

► **County Line Church, Overt:** Revival, Oct. 13–16; lunch served Sunday; Steve

Smith, speaker; Wade Rogers, music.

► **Spring Hill Church, Waterford:** Homecoming, Oct. 13; Music with Amy Presley, 9:30 a.m. worship, 10:30 a.m. followed by covered dish lunch; Daniel Minor, speaker; John Parker, pastor.

► **Shelton Church, Moselle:** 106th homecoming, Oct. 13; service, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Brent Parker, speaker; Greg Smith, music.

► **Union Church, Tylertown:** Homecoming and 198th anniversary, Oct. 13; service, 10 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Millard Moak, speaker; Joy McEwen, music.

► **Cairo Church, Ecru:** Revival, Oct. 13–16; Sun., 5 p.m., followed by fellowship meal; Mon.–Wed., 7 p.m.; Wesley Stephens, speaker; Scott Smith, worship leader; Rick Griffin, pastor.

► **Southside Church, Vicksburg:** Revival, Oct. 20–25; Sun. 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.–Wed. 7 p.m. Nursery provided. Harvey Reeves, speaker.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 10, 2013

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

For more information contact the  
Mission Strategy office of the  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
601-292-3231

## UNLIMITED

*Servants of the manifold grace of God* 1 PETER 4:10

2013 Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions

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**Where:** First Baptist Church Jackson, Miss.  
Christian Life Center Dining Room (2nd floor)

**Registration:** Register online at  
[www.MSpastorsConference2013.eventbrite.com](http://www.MSpastorsConference2013.eventbrite.com)  
**OR call 601-292-3329**



**Richard Land**  
President of Southern  
Evangelical Seminary



**Russell Moore**  
President of The  
Ethics & Religious  
Liberty Commission

see.  
hear.  
**GO.**

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST  
STUDENT MISSIONS

FOR WE CANNOT HELP BUT SPEAK ABOUT WHAT WE  
HAVE SEEN AND HEARD. ACTS 4:20

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For more information contact the Collegiate Ministry of the  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 601-292-3299.

## BIVO / SMALL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING & MINISTERS/WIVES MEETING

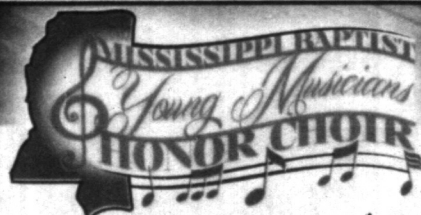
OCTOBER 28

BIVO Small Church Meeting, Baptist  
Building Chapel, 3-4:45 p.m.

BIVO Small Church Ministers/Wives  
Banquet, IBC Jackson, 4-6:30 p.m.

BIVO SMALL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING & MINISTERS/WIVES MEETING  
WILL RUN FROM 7:30 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.

Contact Pastor, Leadership Development Dept. for more information and to register for both  
of these events: 1-800-748-1651 ext. 305, or [cvtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:cvtaylor@mbcb.org)



**SAT., MARCH 29, 2014 - SUN., MARCH 30, 2014**  
**MARCH 29, 8:00AM - MARCH 30, 4:00PM**  
**WYNNDALE BAPTIST CHURCH, TERRY**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE  
CHURCH MUSIC DEPARTMENT OF THE MBCB AT  
**601-292-3272**

## World Day of Prayer



Monday,

**November 4,**

has been set aside, so check with your local Baptist  
associational office. It is also possible to have the program as a prayer retreat on  
another day or weekend in November, or on a Sunday, in order to include your entire  
church. Visit the BWA Web page, and under Additional Resources, you'll find a  
PowerPoint, crafts, even the history and can easily download your program, prayer  
guide, and planning tools at: <http://www.bwawd.org/day-of-prayer>

For more information contact the WMU office at the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 319.

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impoverished people around the world. The vision of WorldCrafts is to  
offer an income with dignity and the hope of everlasting life to every  
person on earth. WMU is committed to the in-country partners and  
artisan groups with whom they work. The aim is to develop viable  
employment for women and men in poverty. WMU is holistic taking into  
consideration the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the workers.  
WorldCrafts is a fair-trade ministry that abides by and requires all  
partners to abide by the Fair Trade Federation guidelines.

To shop for WorldCrafts items, learn about artisan groups, or find help planning a party,  
go to [www.worldcrafts.org](http://www.worldcrafts.org) or call customer service at 800-968-7301. To enlist a  
Mississippi WMU WorldCrafts Specialist for your event, please contact Tammy Anderson in  
the state WMU office at 800-748-1651, ext. 323, or [tanderson@mbcb.org](mailto:tanderson@mbcb.org)

## Ministers *Wives* Conference

*Fellowship and Encouragement to Ministers' Wives*



October 28, 2013

First Baptist Church, Jackson

1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Barbie Bassett

Contact Cathy Taylor in the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept.  
for registration information. 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, or  
[cvtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:cvtaylor@mbcb.org)



## 2014 DIARY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT CALENDAR

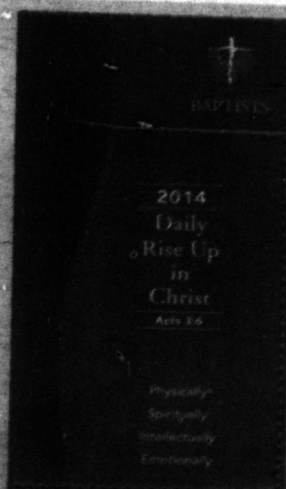
### DAILY RISE UP IN CHRIST!

Discover daily listings of activities and scriptures in the 2014 Diary to develop your:

- Physical Health
- Spiritual Health
- Intellectual Health
- Emotional Health

Enjoy a year of being alive and well in Christ!

Churches can provide calendars for their church for \$1.50 each (includes a sticker & magnet) by contacting MBCB - Church Growth to place an order: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205  
E-mail: sbell@mbcb.org, Phone: 601-292-3310  
FAX: 601-714-7424



## HEALTH CONFERENCES



Plan to bring people from your church and community to participate in one of the Health Conferences planned throughout Mississippi.

Congregational Pastor  
Mark Murphy, MBCC

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Church Growth Dept.

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
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Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Church Growth Dept.

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
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Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Church Growth Dept.

January 17, 2014  
6-8:45 PM  
Main Street BC, Hattiesburg  
Featured Speaker: Alan Woodward

January 24, 2014  
6-8:45 PM  
Hattiesburg BC, Tupelo  
Featured Speaker: Alan Woodward

January 31, 2014  
6-8:45 PM  
FBC, Louisville  
Featured Speaker: Alan Woodward

February 7, 2014  
6-8:45 PM  
FBC, Grenada  
Featured Speaker: Alan Woodward

February 28, 2014  
6-8:45 PM  
FBC, Jackson  
Featured Speaker: Joni Eareckson Tada

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:  
Church Growth Dept., Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205  
E-mail: sbell@mbcb.org  
Phone: 601-292-3310  
FAX: 601-714-7424

## Mississippi Baptists say Merry Christmas

to the pastors in the Minnesota/Wisconsin Baptist Convention and the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention through The Suit Project ministry. What is the Suit Project? For 50 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending new suits to pastors in new work areas. Many of these pastors have no suit nor have the extra money to purchase one. By sending them a suit we are letting the pastors know that we care about them and that we support their work.

How do I get involved? Simply make a donation to the ministry. Each suit will cost \$140. This can be a special project for Men's Ministry groups, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, or WMU groups. For churches or individuals looking for a ministry that really touches someone's life, The Suit Project is the perfect choice.

Where do I send my donation? Make your check payable to MBCB and designate your checks to The Suit Project and mail to Men's Ministry, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS, 39205-0530.

If funds are available, we will send a gift certificate to the pastor's wife! Often they go without things that they want or need to support their husband's ministry. This is a wonderful way to show them that they are not forgotten and that the support they provide their husband is truly appreciated.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE MEN'S MINISTRY DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD AT 1-800-748-1751, EXT. 335

## YOUTH EVANGELISM CHALLENGE

# FOCUSED & READY

HEBREWS 12:1-2

Speaker:  
Ed Newton

Worship:  
Bethany Barr Phillips

Illusionist:  
Brock Gill



DECEMBER 30-31, MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE.  
REGISTRATION BEGINS MONDAY, DEC. 30, AT 1:30 P.M.  
CHALLENGE CONCLUDES AT 12:30 P.M., DEC. 31

## 2014 Mississippi Baptist AREA & STATE Keyboard Festivals

JANUARY 23-25, 2014

**COST: \$8 PER PERSON BY DECEMBER 9, 2013**

REGISTER NOW FOR THE AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVAL NEAR YOU. VISIT OUR WEB SITE TO SEE FULL LISTING OF LOCATIONS AND TIMES. YOU MAY ALSO VIEW THE AREA KEYBOARD HANDBOOK FROM THIS PAGE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION CONTACT THE CHURCH MUSIC DEPARTMENT OF THE MBCB AT 601-292-3272.

## AMD & SEMINARY EXTENSION DIRECTORS BREAKFAST

October 29  
7-8 a.m.  
Baptist Building  
Chapel  
Jackson, MS

For more information and registration contact Cathy Taylor (P/LD), cwtaylor@mbcb.org or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305.

Pray this day for...

October 11 - 24, 2013

*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God Reigns.'" Isaiah 52:7*

Pray for: **Nickoilee & Steven Roberts**, missionaries to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Marty & Suzanne Roberts**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for: **Ruth & Steven Robertson**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through financial administration, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Sharp**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/evangelism.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Janna Smith**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting and regional office support.

Pray for: **Clay & Jeri Stegall**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for a team of nine from **Gary Bowlin Evangelism, Summit**, going to Romania, 10/20-10/30, for medical, VBS, and evangelism.

Pray for: **Jeanette Taylor**, missionary ministering to Southeast Asian Peoples through regional office support.

Pray for: **Karl & Peggy Wallace**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through mission administration and church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Regina White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting and church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Floyd & Sylvia Wingo**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

# **MOTIVATIONS** living with heart

## **Scheduling Suggestions**

### • **Two-Sunday Format**

- AM and PM presentations on Sunday 1
- Wednesday night presentation
- Commitment service on Sunday 2

### • **One-Sunday Format**

- Session 1 in Sunday School
- Session 2 in Morning Worship
- Session 3 after a church-wide lunch
- Session 4 in Evening Worship

### • **Weekend Format**

- Saturday night dinner
- AM and PM presentations on Sunday

For more information contact  
**Stewardship Department**

**Rick Blythe**  
Stewardship Director  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
PO Box 530  
Jackson MS 39205-0530

**Lisa Leavell**  
Ministry Assistant  
800.748.1651, ext. 347  
601.292.3347  
lleavell.mbc.org

**BAPTISTS**

### **Resources Available**

Poster, Guide, Insert,  
Resource CD & DVD  
[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)  
mission\_strategy/  
steward

**Miss Ella Epps**  
12-2-09  
Parents: Aaron & Tiffany  
South American Peoples

**Miss Daisy Claire**  
12-7-09  
Parents: Dwayne & Melissa  
European Peoples

**Miss Elizabeth Ann M.**  
12-21-06  
Parents: C & A  
Restricted

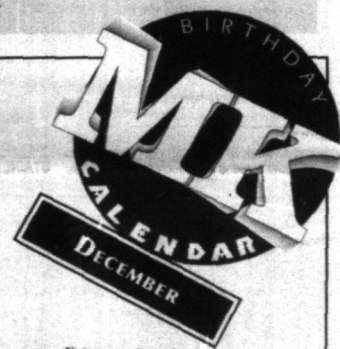
**Miss Laura Little**  
12-29-92  
Parents: Bob & Amy  
West Africa

**Mr. Benjamin Austin**  
12-30-92  
Parents: Arnold & Susie  
South American Peoples

## **Encourage an MK with a card!**

**FOR SECURITY**, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: **MBCB WMU MK Birthdays**, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.  
**PLEASE NOTE:** Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



**HOUSE TOPS**



## MS POSITIONS

**BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH IN PRENTISS, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR.** Please send resume to Bethany Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1316, Prentiss, MS 39474.

**SYLVIA RENA BAPTIST CHURCH IN WATER VALLEY, MS IS LOOKING FOR FULL TIME PASTOR.** Send resume to Sylvia Rena Baptist Church, 17640 Hwy 32, Water Valley MS, 38965

**IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, NATCHEZ, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL TIME PASTOR.** Please mail resumes to: Immanuel Baptist Church, 684 Hwy 61 North Natchez, Ms. 39120. Attn: Pastor Search Committee

**MINISTER OF STUDENTS / ASSOCIATE PASTOR - BROOKSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH.** Job Description available on website [www.brooksidebc.com](http://www.brooksidebc.com). Send cover letter and Resume to: Brookside Baptist Church, Personnel Team 4993 Hwy 302 E. Olive Branch, MS 38654

**IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN VICKSBURG, MS 39180, IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR/YOUTH DIRECTOR.** Please send resume to 6949 Highway 61 S, or e-mail the church at [lbc\\_secretary@bellsouth.net](mailto:lbc_secretary@bellsouth.net)

**GOOD HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, NAMI WAIYA (NEAR LOUISVILLE) IS SEEKING A FULL TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH&CHILDREN.** Send resumes to 12956 Hwy 490 Louisville Ms 39339

**UNION HALL BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS, IS SEEKING A PART-TIME BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH DIRECTOR.** Resumes may be mailed to the church at 1242 Nola Road N. E., Brookhaven, MS 39601. ATTENTION: Youth Director Search Committee.

**DUCK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH IN DUCK HILL, MS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME STUDENT PASTOR/MINISTER OF MUSIC.** e-mail resumes to [dhbc\\_secretary@yahoo.com](mailto:dhbc_secretary@yahoo.com)

## CLASSIFIEDS

**FULL TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND ADULT EDUCATION:** A growing church in a growing community seeking a Minister of Music and Adult Education. Send resumes to Farley Community Church, 12302 Bell Rd., Huntsville, Alabama 35803, ATTN: Personnel Committee

**NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., OLD BIBLES REBOUND.** Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

**WANT A GOOD GROUP OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN TO ENTERTAIN AT YOUR NEXT SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP?** Call the Ragged Roos, a washub group. We sing, tell jokes, and play instruments. Call us at 601-857-0736. Accepting bookings for 2014.

**GET THE BEST RATES ON:** Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit [www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com](http://www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com)

**WINDOW AND SCREEN SHOP - WINDOWS** AND storm windows built to fit your opening. Plus new window screens and rescreen old screens. Call Tom Cook 601-709-4879.

**HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meriden.** Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to 601-483-7958 or call 800-368-2705.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES.** Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-8617.

**GATLINBURG RENTALS:** Cabin \$95/night and Condo \$75/night. Contact: 832 922 0401 or E-mail: [pdw4760@att.net](mailto:pdw4760@att.net) for information and booking.

**GET AWAY AT BETSY'S LIL' CABINS** call for a brochure 601-940-6841.

**STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC.,** serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

**SEBREN'S SIDING** [www.sebrenhomeimprovement.com](http://www.sebrenhomeimprovement.com). Christian owned Don & Rita Sebren. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

**STAINED GLASS:** new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 1:9-12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## CWJC

cont. from p. 1

attendance," Thornton said "Gas assistance will be dispersed to participants who express a dire need and are traveling more than 20 miles one way to CWJC class each day."

The Mississippi center has graduated 79 women and serves an average of 35 women annually, utilizing the Jobs for Life curriculum and offering classes on the Bible, money management, business math, communications, anger management, computer skills, and health and nutrition, among other topics.

Lee County CWJC in Auburn, AL, another recipient of the WMU grant, has ministered the past six years by focusing on life skills and job skills, and raising self-esteem and self-confidence.

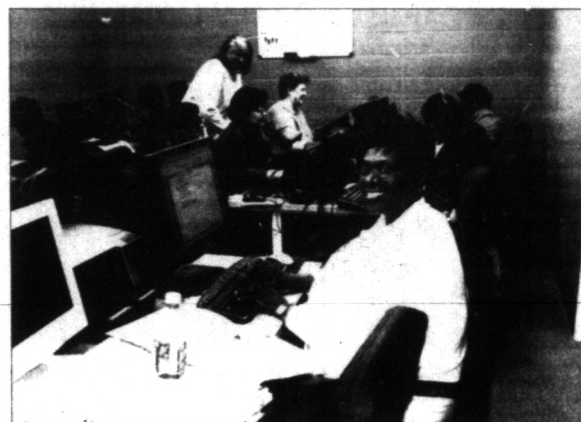
"We do so much more than just resumes, mock interviews, and dressing for success," explained Lynn Bell, board secretary of CWJC of Lee County.

"We try to help the entire person - mind, body, and spirit - and focus on each individual growing spiritually. Some participants have never owned their own Bible before coming to CWJC."

The Lee County center will use its funds to purchase new computers and printers for students, print recruitment materials, and purchase study books to help with GED tutoring, Bell said.

The center has graduated 79 women during the past six years, and serves an average of 20 women annually. The center has one paid staff member and utilizes volunteers, including 25 local educators who participate weekly and community leaders and professionals who commit to single sessions.

The Greater Arlington (Texas) CWJC, which has served women since 2005, is the third WMU grant recipient. The center provides job training many



**ON THE RISE** - Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) of the Golden Triangle participant Martha Tate hones her keyboarding skills with Microsoft Office software during the center's basic computer training class. CWJC of the Golden Triangle, located in Starkville, is one of three sites honored this year with a \$1,200 grant from the national Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary. (BP photo)

women would not be able to afford, said Julie Forrester, Greater Arlington CWJC executive director and site coordinator.

"Without CWJC's tuition-free job skills program, many women would not be able to obtain crucial job training and [would] be unemployed," Forrester said. "Arlington is home to The University of Texas at Arlington and Tarrant County Community College, but their fees for job training courses are unaffordable for many women."

The Arlington center will use their grant for computer-related improvements. "We will upgrade software and purchase new equipment to increase efficiency for our participants," Forrester said. "All improvements will contribute to enhanced job skills preparation in an effort to remain competitive in today's job market."

The Arlington center has graduated 78 women since 2012, when more than 170 volunteers served over 4,000 hours. The center's job skills curriculum includes Microsoft Office, QuickBooks, resume writing, and job interview skills, while personal development classes focus on a daily Bible study, time management, and healthy boundaries.

"One of the main aspects I respect about the CWJC ministry is that it is all about second chances and individual responsibility is required on the part of each participant," Forrester said. "I think it is vitally important that we provide women a hand up rather than a handout."

Overall, there are 159 registered and certified CWJC and Christian Men's Job Corps (CMJC) sites, and several of these serve participants in multiple locations at satellite sites. Of these sites, 120 offer CWJC, 10 offer CMJC, and 29 offer both.

In 2012, 11,080 staff and volunteers served approximately 4,250 participants. According to independentsector.org, the estimated value of volunteer time for 2012 is \$22.14 per hour. With more than 3.7 million volunteer hours served in 2012, CWJC/CMJC had an economic impact of more than \$82 million based on this estimate.

Founded by national WMU in 1997, CWJC provides a Christian environment to equip disadvantaged women for life and employment through biblical nourishment. Women receive training in life skills to help them attain education, job readiness, and self-sufficiency. Each participant is paired with a mentor to guide, encourage, and keep them accountable.

For more information on volunteering or to find a nearby job corps site, visit [wmu.com/jobcorps](http://wmu.com/jobcorps).

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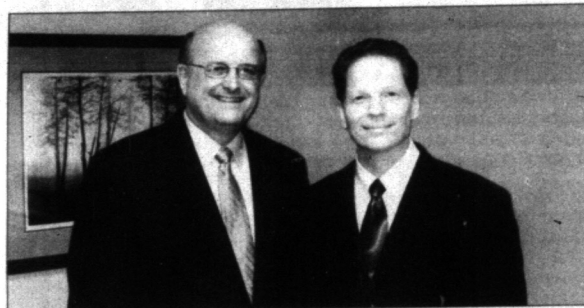


\*Rate subject to change. Example of the rate is only for illustration purposes. Actual rate may vary. This is a simple interest rate. Rate may be subject to change. Rate may be subject to change. Rate may be subject to change.

## Staff Changes



**FIRST CHURCH, POLKVILLE**, has called Zach Kilpatrick as pastor. He is shown with his family.



**FIRST CHURCH, VICKSBURG**, has called Ashton C. Thompson as executive pastor (Minister of Education/Missions/Administration). He comes from Woodward Terrace Church, Muscle Shoals, Ala. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife, Liesl, are natives of Brandon. Shown are pastor Matt Buckles and Thompson.

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info@msaudiollc.com Clinton, MS 39060 Fax 601-924-2880

# FADE 2013

## MEN'S CONFERENCE



"THE MILLION DOLLAR MAN"  
**MAIN SPEAKER**  
Ted DiBiase

"Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases to be. For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men." Psalms 12:1

# OCTOBER 18TH & 19TH

CONFERENCE COST: \$45  
**MEADOWVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**  
300 LINDEN CIRCLE  
STARKVILLE, MS 39759

To register, or for more details, call 662-335-1963  
or visit [www.mbcstarkville.com](http://www.mbcstarkville.com)

## OBITUARIES

**Robert Lee Hamblin**, of Huntersville, died September 30 at the Levine & Dickson Hospice House, Huntersville, N.C. He was born June 29, 1928, in Hamilton, Ohio to Millard Filmore Hamblin, Sr. and Rhoda Alice Muncy Hamblin. He leaves his wife of 65 years, Mary Ruth Miller Hamblin and children, Bobbie Ruth Hamblin Monger and spouse, Warren Allen Monger of Maryville, Tenn.; Karis Jan Hamblin Kremers and spouse, Mark Stuart Kremers of Cornelius, N.C.; and Mary Carole Hamblin Dibble and spouse, Sweyden Ernest Dibble of Manchester, Conn. He leaves eight grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by three sisters, Rachael Elsie Langham, Ethel Martin, Mildred Helena Vinson; and by five brothers, William Luther Hamblin, Clarence Elijah Hamblin, Earl Hartman Hamblin, Thomas Raymond Hamblin, Millard Filmore Hamblin, II.

He grew up in Memphis, Tenn., where he felt the call to be a minister while he was a high school student. He graduated from Memphis Technical High School. He is a graduate of Union University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Later Union University conferred on him an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree. He was a Distinguished Alumnus of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex., having received the Bachelor of Divinity Degree and the Doctor of Philosophy Degree. He also received the Doctor of Divinity Degree from Mississippi College in Clinton. He was pastor in Tennessee, Texas, and Mississippi. He served as pastor of Harrisburg Church in Tupelo for twenty-two years. He served for six years as professor at New Orleans Baptist Seminary. He also served as Vice-President of the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board). He was an active leader in the Mississippi Baptist Convention, serving as a member of the Executive Committee and president of the Convention. He



**HAMBLIN**

was a trustee at Southwestern Seminary. He was a popular preacher for many years. He preached in all fifty states and in more than forty countries around the world. He wrote eight books and numerous articles on preaching, evangelism, and Biblical interpretation. New Orleans has established the Robert L. Hamblin Chair of Biblical Exposition in his honor. Hamblin retired in 1998, and he and his wife moved to Huntersville where he continued to preach and serve churches as interim pastor.

The funeral service was October 5 at First Church in Huntersville with burial following in the church cemetery.

**W.A. Fordham** died July 3 after a short battle with cancer. Fordham was born in Chatham, La., Nov. 13, 1926. He enlisted in the Navy at age 17 and fought in WWII. He came to Mississippi one Sunday with his brother who was pastor at Napoleon Church, Napoleon, and met his future bride, Ethel Hover, that day. They were married Dec. 22, 1946.

Fordham surrendered to the ministry at age 25. He attended Clarke College and William Carey College (University) and taught school in Logtown before entering New Orleans Seminary. He earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1961. He pastored Napoleon Church, and Oak Hill Church, Poplarville before being called to First Church, Petal, in 1961. He pastored First Church, Petal, for 30 years before his retirement in 1991. During his time as pastor he served in several positions with the Lebanon Association and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. After retiring, he was interim at several churches in the Hattiesburg area, the final being 11 years at New Hope Church, Jones County. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Ethel Hover Fordham; two sons: Al Fordham and wife Janet, Hattiesburg; and Gary Fordham and wife Karen, Petal; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



**FORDHAM**

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).



## The Power to Heal • John 5:2-17

Is the one at your home in the front, the back, or possibly on the side? Is it a wrap-around? Does it have steps or is close to the ground? Is it screened-in or an open-air model? Does it have rocking chairs, flowerers or plants helping fill the space? I have even seen some with jacuzzis, televisions, refrigerators and bbq grills as part of its decor. In case you haven't figured out what I am referring to, the answer is porches. In all probability you have some type of porch, patio or overhang attached to your house.

Many times the porch is a social setting. It might be a place to reflect on the day or enjoy the beauty of God's creation. The porch can serve as host for a swing and long talks with grandparents. One unique feature of a porch is its intimacy. Even though most porches are visible to all who pass by, there is something sacred about your own rectangular piece of wood or concrete that is both personal and cherished.

Now, think about the church building you attend on Sunday. Does it have a porch? Many Mississippi Baptist churches do. The one I pastor does. It is beautifully decorated with different kinds of flowers, plants and crepe myrtles on each side. At the front of the porch you will find two tall columns that have lights shining on them at sunset.

Have you taken the time to stop and thank God for the porch that is joined to the place where you worship? If you have never entertained such a strange request, allow me to share with you the reason why.

Our passage for this week's Bible study is one of my favorites in all of Scripture. We read here of a man who had been ill for 38

years. The setting was the pool at Bethesda. We read early in John 5 the pool had five porticoes (what we call porches today). At certain times the waters of this pool would stir and the one able to secure their place in the pool first was healed. While that is a wonderful picture, a problem remains.

The man who had been ill for 38 years was not able to maneuver quickly enough to get into the pool and to compound his grief, no one would help him. We know by

reading verse 3, "there lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame and withered." Many of these were not able to help themselves to the wonderful waters of the pool. They needed help.

The temptation for so many in church life is to avoid or turn a blind eye to the porches in their communities. Author and Pastor Chuck Poole of Northminster Baptist Church in Jackson

offers this powerful reminder, "The porch is never empty. This man's helplessness was compounded

by his loneliness. Life in the real world is captured and framed in the snapshot of Bethesda's porch."

The porch is never empty. Let those five words fill your mind and flood your heart. We are surrounded by people at any given time that need help from Jesus. The porch is never empty. They need us to take them to Christ. The porch is never empty.

These precious souls are at our doorsteps. The porch is never empty. We step over and around them to "do church" every Sunday. The porch is never empty.

I have been on a lot of "porches" in my ministry. I have wept on the porch in the pediatric ICU. I have prayed on the porch inside the courtroom with the defendant. I have knelt on the porch in hospital rooms as the patient drew their last breath, and so on. Porches are found in cancer clinics and orphanages around this world. Porches can be seen in the loneliness of a bus station and even in the busyness of an airport terminal. Porches are sometimes not always seen. Your porch may be one of depression, sadness or anxiety. Porches are everywhere and porches are never empty.

If we live long enough we will experience a porch or two. And when we do, we will find that we have company alongside of us. Sometime or another we each need a miracle and will rejoice when Jesus shows up on our porch. So, the next time you occupy your porch, remember you are not alone. The porch is never empty.

McKay is pastor of Harperville Church, Harperville.



Explore the Bible  
with Bobby McKay

## Even Christians Collide • Luke 10:38-42

Jesus has predicted his death now for the second time and resolutely set out for Jerusalem. From Luke 9:51 to 19:27 Jesus became focused on Jerusalem to execute his ultimate purpose of dying on the cross. However, it seems there was a time-out taken to clarify the priorities of two sisters, Mary and Martha, who lived in a small village called Bethany, approximately 2 miles from Jerusalem. Hospitality was an important and serious responsibility in their culture and this involved properly preparing house and food for guests.

The two had different convictions about the purpose and intent of the visit from Jesus and the disciples. Martha was busy with chores, overburdened, and maybe frustrated with details. What was the lesser and what was the greater priority, and furthermore, did she perceive that her priority needed to be everyone else's as well? Sparks of conflict abound. She was willing to ask Jesus into the fray in an effort to justify or clarify Mary's poor judgment. We often need to identify the difference of attending to a good thing and at the same time being cautious to not hinder something even better. Choices are not always clear, or routine, but are evasive and at times: a red herring, enigmatical, and puzzling.

Did Martha's bent for being the perfect

hostess give her a sense of self-righteousness? ("Jesus, don't you care that I was left to do it all?") Her priorities did not line up with those of Jesus and now she is in conflict with Mary and Jesus. Not good (but a "teachable moment," as we say). In a later passage in John 11, Lazarus was ill and Jesus was summoned for help. When he arrived, it was Martha who sought his words and wisdom and information, while Mary remained in her grief. In a sort of role reversal, they both believed Jesus could have healed Lazarus.

Martha earlier squandered her opportunity to sit and listen to the Master, but here in the illness of their brother, she helped her sister see that grief was not the priority. At the original visit, Martha's rendering of superb hospitality was good but she derailed her motives by questioning the value of Mary's priorities as well as those of Jesus. Mary had wisely chosen to capitalize on be-

ing with Christ, and honoring his presence and was rewarded

Serious attention paid to Jesus' teaching is sine qua non (matter of life and death) and stays with us into the next world. Mary chose to sit at his feet, an advantageous position displaying honor and respect for the teacher, signifying submission. We must not be cumbered with or distracted by allowing worldly business to ambush our time with Jesus.

We read in V. 42 that Jesus told Martha that Mary had made the right choice and it will not be taken from her. What a huge confirmation and an even larger promise! Nothing shall separate us from the loving care and promises of our Lord. Jesus can and always will give us an everlasting answer to our confusion. Your choice will not always make the other person's choice incorrect, but sometimes there is simply something better. It's hard to differentiate between good, better, and best,

but apply God's perspective and get clarification from His Holy Word.

The actions of Martha were not problematic but her choice in the moment was skewed. The focus of these verses is the relationship of the two sisters and Jesus. Don't ever give up an opportunity to listen to and learn from Jesus. It is the duty and wisdom of us all to choose the good part, the service of God and favor of God for one's eternal favor. Should we long to be a meticulous housekeeper or a hungry and zealous disciple, willing to squelch our ego for some precious teachings of our Lord? The last verse in chap. 10 makes it clear that those who choose the good part shall keep what they choose, and their choice will be commended in the great day of reckoning.

Jesus was the guest of Martha, yet He has to reprove her. He could not justify her request to rebuke Mary. As He loves, He rebukes and chastens. We can become deeply entangled in the rules of societal demands and we have to repeat the name Martha, Martha, for emphasis. Don't neglect the most needful but choose the glorious and good part. Jesus loves me, this I know.

Gibson is a member of Monticello Church, Monticello.

Bible Studies for Life  
with Evelyn Gibson



## Just for the Record

### In other Church News:

► **Trinity Church, Petal**, is hosting the original Hawthorn Family in concert Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m.

► **Fellowship Church, Ellisville**, is hosting The Telestials in concert Oct. 13, 6 p.m. Finger foods and fellowship to follow. Love offering.

► **Escatawpa Church, Moss**

**Point**, is hosting The Triumphant Quartet in concert Oct. 25, 7 p.m. Doors open, 6 p.m. Tickets, \$12 in advance; \$15 at the door, if available. Call (228) 475-2938 or 219-5759 for tickets and information.

► **Parkway Church, Pascagoula**, held a note burning Sept. 29 during a 5th Sunday Sing. Shown are Rudy Skinner, Johnny Nations, pastor Martin Britt, and Curtis Rinks.

► **Eagle Lake Church, Eagle Lake**, is hosting a women's conference, Walk the Talk - Dress the Part, Oct. 11 - 12 with Cammy Tidwell, speaker. \$10. For more information or to register, call or text (601) 927-3159 or 415-7857.

► **Lee Association** is hosting the Northeast Mississippi Pastors Conference Oct. 14. Shawn Parker and James Lewis, speakers. For information, call (662) 566-1700.

► **Silver Creek Church, McComb**, will host Trunk or Treat activities for all children on October 26 from 5-5:45 p.m. Hot dogs and hamburgers served at 6 p.m. For more information, call (601) 324-4040.

► **Academy Church, Blue Mountain**, will host The Old Paths Quartet from Waycross, Ga., and the Servants from Ripley in a Gospel singing on Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. For more information, con-

tact Johnny Childs at (662) 837-4847. Wayne Cobb, pastor.

► **Todd Starnes**, national host of Fox News and Commentary, author, and former associate editor at Baptist Press in Nashville, will speak at **North Greenwood Church** at both morning services (8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.) on Oct. 20. He is the recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Award and the Associated Press Mark Twain Award for Storytelling.

## Just for the Record



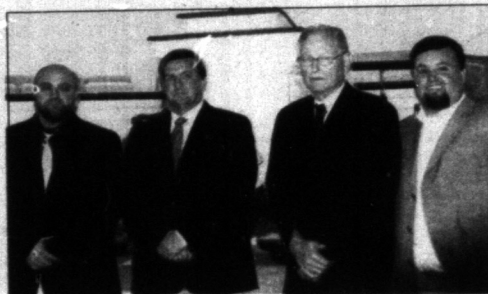
**OGDEN CHURCH, BENTONIA**, recently held an ATV safety program presented by 4H agent Katrina Owens and the Brain Injury Association of Mississippi. A total of 37 youth from the community received free ATV helmets.



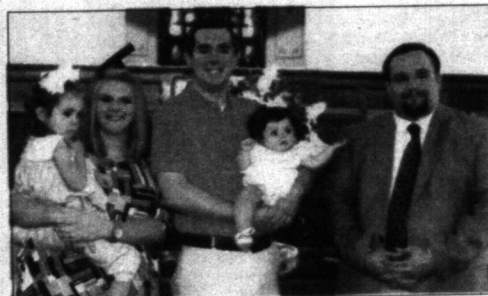
The children's choir of **EAST COLUMBIA CHURCH, COLUMBIA**, recently performed Down by the Creek Bank.



**FIRST CHURCH, HICKORY FLAT**, held a ladies' luncheon Sept. 22 for the Margaret Lackey State Missions offering. Shown is guest speaker Maria Teel, Tracy Moser, Becky Gresham, and Heather Linville.



**FIRST CHURCH, WINONA**, held a deacon ordination for (from left) Dan Herod, Steven Helms, and Hershel Stidham on Sept. 23. They are shown with minister of students Dustin Long.



**CHUNKY CHURCH, CHUNKY**, held a baby dedication Sept. 22. Shown are Ashley and Christ Massey with daughters Addison Claire and Anslee Catherine along with pastor Matt Pittman.



**SANDERSVILLE CHURCH, SANDERSVILLE**, ordained Bill Maddox and Jeremy Gentry as deacons Sept. 29. Shown are Laverne Maddox, Maddox, Gentry, and Pam Gentry.



**BUNKER HILL CHURCH, COLUMBIA**, ordained Dudley Williamson to the gospel ministry Sept. 22. Shown are Williamson, Lisa Williamson, and pastor Randy Gardner.



**MCADAMS CHURCH, SALLIS**, ordained Shane Boyette as deacon. Shown are Boyette, Janell Boyette, pastor James Young, and AMD Steve Jordan.

Thursday, October 24, 2013 / 8:00 am - 3:30 pm / First Baptist Church Jackson, Jackson, MS

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